

**Case 3329*****Mycetoporus forticornis* Fauvel, 1875 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over *Mycetoporus aequalis* Thomson, 1868**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Mycetoporus forticornis* Fauvel, 1875 for a widespread Palaearctic species of rove beetle (STAPHYLINIDAE). The name is threatened by the recently discovered senior synonym *Mycetoporus aequalis* Thomson, 1868, which is in current use for another species of the same genus. A change in the application of the name from one widespread species to another would cause considerable confusion. Therefore, precedence of the name *Mycetoporus forticornis* is proposed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; TACHYPORINAE; *Mycetoporus*; *Mycetoporus forticornis*; *Mycetoporus aequalis*; rove beetles; Palaearctic.

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1. The name *Mycetoporus forticornis* was established by Fauvel, 1875 (p. 572) for a widespread Western Palaearctic species of rove beetle (family STAPHYLINIDAE) based on specimens from Europe (France and Germany). The species is of ecological and conservation interest and lives in xerothermous habitats like heathland, dry meadows and forests. The name of the species has been used without interruption from the time of its original description and has been mentioned in at least 81 papers by 69 authors during the last 50 years. The Commission Secretariat holds a list of these usage references. The provisions of Article 23.9.1.1 are not met because the name of a senior subjective synonym, *Mycetoporus aequalis* Thomson, 1868, is also in common use (see para. 2).

2. The name *Mycetoporus aequalis* Thomson, 1868 (p. 323) was also established for a species of rove beetle from Europe (Sweden). It was used for a long time as a valid name with the synonyms *Bolitobius (Mycetoporus) pachyraphis* Pandellé, 1869 (p. 344) and *M. heeri* Luze, 1901 (p. 712). The name was used in at least 34 articles by 32 authors during the past 50 years. A list of the usage references is held by the Commission Secretariat.

3. A study of the type material of the nominal species *Mycetoporus forticornis*, *M. aequalis*, *M. pachyraphis* and *M. heeri* revealed that *M. aequalis* is, in fact, synonymous with *M. forticornis* and that it is not conspecific with *M. pachyraphis* and *M. heeri* (Schülke, 2003a, 2003b, 2004). The name *M. aequalis* Thomson is a senior subjective synonym of *M. forticornis* and consequently would have to replace it. The name *M. pachyraphis* (Pandellé) has to be used for the species referred to during the last fifty years as *Mycetoporus aequalis* (Schülke, 2003b). A change in the application of the name *Mycetoporus aequalis* to another widespread species of the same genus

would cause considerable confusion, therefore the case is referred to the Commission under Article 23.9.3.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *forticornis* Fauvel, 1875, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus forticornis*, precedence over the name *aequalis* Thomson, 1868, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus aequalis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *forticornis* Fauvel, 1875, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus forticornis*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *aequalis* Thomson, 1868, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus aequalis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *aequalis* Thomson, 1868, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus aequalis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *forticornis* Fauvel, 1875, as published in the binomen *Mycetoporus forticornis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).